"TEMPLARY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT OF MASONRY"

THE TEMPLAR

A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Grand Recorder* HARRIE M. TAFT, *Grand Commander*

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RIGHT EMINENT SIRS AND SIR KNIGHTS:

Your Grand Commander's first message places emphasis upon the desirability of a substantial increase in membership, indicating a goal of 1000 petitions for an estimated net gain of approximately 500 for the coming year.

As far as I am aware, no one has questioned the appropriateness of a special effort to secure such an increase at this particular time. Certainly, it is indeed fitting that we celebrate the fact that May 6, 1955 we shall complete our 150 years of continuous existence as a Grand Commandery.

At first thought, there may be a few, a very few, who will question our ability to obtain as many as 1000 petitions, entirely forgetting that we exceeded that number in 1950 and 1952. For your information, there are more than 122,000 Master Masons in the State of Massachusetts and more than 18,500 in the State of Rhode Island - many do not belong to the Chapter, the Council and the Commandery. This is not only a challenge to York Rite Masonry -- it is also a glorious opportunity!

Quite naturally, among these 140,000 Masons, there are some not eligible, and others who for various reasons will not be interested in proceeding farther along the pathway of Masonry. After eliminating these from consideration, however, there undoubtedly remain considerably more than 90,000 genuine, bona-fide prospects -- surely a salesman's paradise. Without any question, there is within the normal territory of each one of our Commanderies a large number of Masons who have not yet taken advantage of the rights and privileges of the York Rite which are available to them. (Many of them have never been specifically contacted.)

I have a firm belief that the goal of 1000 petitions can be reached, not only in this year, but in many years, providing that the proper "spade-work" be performed. I strongly urge that the matter of securing petitions be not considered as a "catch-as-catch can" proposition to be attempted without plans or preparation. Of course, a certain number of petitions can thus be obtained, and doubtless it will usually be possible to do so; however, it requires only a little more effort to do the job systematically and methodically, and thereby achieve far more effective results.

I strongly recommend, therefore, that each Commandery, if it has not already done so, prepare a complete and comprehensive list of all prospects for its entire area. A careful checking of these names in comparison with the Commandery membership will probably reveal that, in most instances, for each person on the prospect list there will be several Sir Knights who for particular reasons are in an excellent position to contact that prospect and bring to his attention the advantages and attributes of Templar Masonry. The Sir Knights to whom propsects have been assigned should report periodically upon the results of their efforts, in order that the record may be kept up-to-date.

If increasing our membership is of real importance (and I am confident we all sincerely believe that it is), then we should select the best and surest means of attaining our objective. The above-described procedure has proven most effective--with, of course, modifications needed to fit local conditions. Collaboration with Chapters and Councils is earnestly recommended in order that York Rite Masonry as a whole may prosper. A few complications will arise from time to time, due to the fact that there are more Chapters and less Councils than Commanderies, and also as a result of several Commanderies covering the same territory in a few instances. These difficulties are relatively minor and will readily be resolved wherever the will to co-operate and work together is present.

"LET'S GO TO WORK AND DO OUR BEST." Then I am sure that success will crown our efforts.

Courteously yours,

HARRIE M. TAFT
Grand Commander.

Massachusetts Consistory, Scottish Rite is sponsoring and soliciting for a class of 1,000 for December 12, 1953, to be known as the Illustrious Thomas Sherrard Roy 33° Class. M.W. Thomas S. Roy has served the Craft with great fidelity and distinction. He has greatly enriched all with whom he has come in contact by his ability to express the purposes, precepts and spirit of the Fraternity. He has left behind increased faith and a deeper spiritual understanding of the meaning of Brotherhood. He has made a unique contribution in drawing Masons everywhere into a greater degree of fellowship and a greater faith in our future, as men inspired by God.

The Grand Master was made a Mason in King Solomon Lodge, Digby, N.S., on March 5th, 1912. He served as Chaplain in Dalhousie and Paul Revere Lodges and was Master of Montacute Lodge, 1935-1936. He was MWM of Lawrence Chapter Rose Croix in 1947; DGM of the GL of Mass. (1943); and Grand Master since 1951. He was made 33° Mason in 1945. He is Grand Representative to the GL of California and Nova Scotia and the first Imperial Chaplain of the Imperial Council of the A.A.O.N.M.S. He has been active as a Baptist Minister for over 40 years and has an enviable record of community service and honorary degrees.

While he has been the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, the Masonic Temple has been modernized, made safer and more beautiful. Membership is within 3,872 of its all-time peak established in 1929. He has visited 22 Jurisdictions and probably traveled 60,000 miles to keep his Masonic engagements!

NOTE: Our Grand Master is a member of Bay State #38, Brockton, Massachusetts.

BLOOD BANK

Have you contributed to the Blood Bank of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts-which,as you well know, has a Blood Bank working in conjunction with the American Red Cross. They are and have been taking care of every Masonic request, without exception.

Sir Knight Donald W. Kenneth, Recorder of Narragansett Commandery of Westerly, R.I. just had occasion to call upon them for blood and he was delighted at the instant response. How many of you Sir Knights are willing to replenish this bank - not only for what has been used, but for what will be used in the future? The need is great, and in the words of our Saviour "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

NOTE: Donate your blood in the name of your Blue Lodge, and the Masonic Blood Bank will receive credit.

Call CApital 7-6930.

GERMAN MASONS

Six Hundred German Masons whose organization was so violently persecuted by Hitler met at Frankfurt, Main, for the first public gathering in more than 16 years. About 700 guests watched in silence as delegates joined hands in a circle and sang that old Masonic hymn, "Brother Give Me Thy Hand," by Brother Wolfgang Mozart. Of the 70,000 Masons that existed in Germany in pre-Hitler days, only 6,100 are now members of the Craft.

EVERY MASON HAS WORK TO DO

Masonry has always been intensely patriotic. The charge to a newly made Mason that he should be true to his government and just to his country, is a very old one In the countries of the world wherever freedom is prized, Masonry flourishes,and Masons always respond to the call of their country. Not all can fight on the field of battle, but all true Masons gladly do what they can,and they try to do something fighting.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The following Commanderies have failed to send their notices to Rt. Em. Sir Frank H. Wilson, Chairman of the Membership Committee, 27 Beverly Street, Melrose 76, Mass.: #4, #6,#11, #12, #19, #22, #24, #27, #34, #37, #45 and #46. This does not allow the Chairman to give you credit on the statistical sheet of THE TEMPLAR.

OFFICIAL ORDER #1

Annual Christmas Good Cheer Offering folders will be available for distribution after November 2nd. Price $2.00 per 100. The purchase price of this Official Order may be deducted from your Good Cheer Offering Fund.

FORGET TO BE AFRAID

If men the world over will recognize that God is our father - that men are our brothers - humanity can forget to be afraid.

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Masonry is a way of life in every sense of the word.

COMMANDERY	QUOTA	SEPT.	OCT.	TOT.
St. Johns	57			
Boston	104	3	7	10
Newburyport	16	1	2	3
Washington	7	4		4
Worcester County	35	1	4	5
Springfield	28	1	2	3
De Molay	57		26	26
Holy Sepulchre	23		1	1
Pilgrim	22		2	2
Palestine	9		1	1
Milford	7		6	6
St. Bernard	7		2	2
Calvary	31		4	4
Haverhill	28		1	1
Ol Colony	13		1	1
Sutton	40		4	4
Bethany	7		1	1
Winslow Lewis	10			
Jerusalem	18		1	1
Hugh de Payens	47	4	4	8
St. Omer	19			
Berkshire	13		1	1
Conn. Valley	9		1	1
Woonsocket	22		5	5
God. de Bouillon	12		1	1
Joseph Warren	8	1		1
Narragansett	14	1		1
Bristol	12	1	1	2
Northampton	8			
South Shore	10			
Trinity	18	1		1
Natick	9		2	2
Coeur de Lion	28		3	3
Gethsemane	47	1	1	2
Olivet	25		6	6
Athol	7			
Bay State	17		2	2
Cyprus	8		4	4
St. Paul	12			
Beauseant	17		4	4
Cambridge	5		6	6
Bethlehem	9			
Orange	5			
Ivanhoe	25			
Quincy	14		2	2
Temple	17		4	4
St. Andrew	10		2	2
Reading	19	2	1	3
T. Smith Webb	8			
Sir Galahad	7			
Total	1000	21	115	136

MONTHLY OBJECTIVES NECESSARY TO OBTAIN QUOTA

	OBJ.	ACTUAL
Sept.	70	21
Oct.	100	115
Nov.	70	
Dec.	80	
Jan.	130	
Feb.	110	
Mar.	130	
Apr.	100	
May	130	
June	80	
	1000	

ACCUMULATIVES

	OBJ.	ACTUAL
Sept.	70	21
Oct.	170	136
Nov.	240	
Dec.	320	
Jan.	450	
Feb.	560	
Mar.	690	
Apr.	790	
May	920	
June	1000	

COMPARISONS

	1954	1953	1952
Sept.	21	52	97
Oct.	136	129	215
Nov.		186	277
Dec.		247	352
Jan.		345	484
Feb.		433	583
Mar.		534	730
Apr.		611	852
May		712	952
June		777	1003

Courteously yours,

FRANK H. WILSON
Chairman
New Membership Committee